

Animal Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 02.05.14

Minutes Prepared By: Rose Armour

1. Purpose of Meeting

Bi-monthly Board Meeting

2. Attendance at Meeting

Board Members (*non-voting members)

Rob Blizzard	Marie Jensen	Dorothy Winn
Debbie Donour	Daphna Nachminovitch	Cpt. Williams*
Debra Griggs	Tyler Carmack	Seth Cheshire*

Residents and City Staff

Doug Beckmann	David Freeman	Harry Bennett
Rachel Bellis	Rose Armour	John Howard
Jake Roos	Jamie O'Grady	Ashley Rhodes

3. Agenda

1. Review minutes from previous Board meeting
2. Present January working committee recommendations
3. Legislative 2014 session update
4. Information/Discussion about free roaming dogs
5. Update – Friends of NACC owner surrender prevention
6. Information – Animal abuse link with domestic violence
7. Update – NACC
8. Any concerns/issues

4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

AAB 12.04.13 meeting minutes approved
Review of action items from December's meeting.

Action Assigned at 12.04.13 Meeting	Assigned To	Status
Talk with ComTech to see if it would be possible to reach out to civic leagues and see if there is interest in receiving updates about found animals	David	Pending
Talk with ComTech to see if it is possible to put an animal of the week on the City's norfolk.gov website?	David	Completed
Overview of other localities with microchipping ordinance and the impact on the locality	Daphna	Completed
Schedule a working committee meeting to discuss off leash permits	Jean	Completed

Present January working committee recommendations

The minutes on Off-Leash Permits approved with amendments

1. Include Marie Jensen to the attendees
2. Add that the cost of identification markers for the off-leash permit should not exceed \$10.00

The Board approved the recommendations unanimously.

Legislative 2014 session update (information below found at: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+men+BIL>)

1. SB 42: relating to fox and coyote enclosures – Not an issue for AAB

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2. SB 228: Pet dealers; required to reimburse certain veterinary fees to consumer –

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED: Pet dealers; diseased animals; veterinary certificate. Requires a pet dealer to reimburse certain veterinary fees when a consumer returns or retains a diseased dog or cat, live or dead that has been certified by a veterinarian as being unfit for purchase. Current law requires the pet dealer to refund the purchase price or exchange the unfit pet for a pet of equivalent value. The bill extends the return or reimbursement period from 10 to 20 days and eliminates the condition that the animal be pedigreed. The bill also requires a dealer to provide an animal history certificate when the consumer takes possession of a dog or cat and incorporates information on the refund provision into the text of the required notice document. The bill requires certain dealers to record and post certain information about the breeder of each animal.

3. SB 622: Companion animals; surgical sterilization program, fund, penalty –

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED: Companion animal surgical sterilization program; fund; penalty. Establishes a fund to reimburse participating veterinarians for the surgical sterilizations they perform on eligible cats or dogs. The bill provides that a surcharge of \$50 per ton of pet food distributed in the Commonwealth be deposited in the fund and such pet food be exempted from the existing litter tax. An animal will be eligible for sterilization under the program if it is a feral or free-roaming cat or is owned by a low-income individual or an animal shelter or other releasing agency. The bill establishes penalties for providing false information or submitting false payment requests.

4. HB588: relating to the Cemetery Board; powers and duties – Allows people to be buried with their animals.

5. HB 740: Dogs; killing or injuring livestock or poultry, animal control officer to seize dog committing –

SUMMARY AS PASSED HOUSE: Duty to seize or kill a dog killing or injuring livestock or poultry. Provides that a local animal control officer or other officer shall have a duty to seize or kill a dog found in the act of killing or injuring livestock or poultry. Current law provides that the officer shall have a duty to kill the dog.

6. HB972: relating to protective orders; companion animals – the bill will allow animals to be included in protective orders. This will grant possession of the animal to the person who has filed the protective order.

7. HB1067: relating to animal shelters - Cleans up language that pounds can be called shelters

8. HB1188: relating to animal fighting

9. SB 32: relating to the establishment of an animal cruelty registry

Free roaming dogs in cemeteries

Has been an issue in Calvary, St. Mary's and Lakewood – in the past the dogs have killed wildlife.

The dogs have been hard to catch. The Animal Protection Unit has had luck finding and catching puppies. The animals are very secretive around people. They have been near the Redgate Norfolk Southern property.

The animals lay out in the sun in the early morning, which is the best time to see them.

Update – Friends of NACC (FoNACC) owner surrender prevention

Congratulations was given to the staff and volunteers of NACC in the number of adoptions especially that the number of cats adopted surpassed dogs.

Friends of NACC developed a pet pantry in 2011 with the intention of keeping pets in their homes. FoNACC was awarded \$5,000 from Banfield. They are working to revamp their website and have links to numerous great resources on rehoming pets. (Richmond has a comprehensive packet which is a great resource.)

FoNacc have a vision of providing a helpdesk/hotline counselling to assist in keeping animals in their home, assisting in adoptions and follow-up adoptions.

How much funding would it take with volunteering staff to support a position? Could this position be funded by charitable donations? Are there examples from other cities? Does this need to be a city position?

Charlottesville has a similar position.

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Could it be a NSPCA joint funded position? Could we use one of NSPCA lines?

Information – Animal abuse link with domestic violence

There is a link between child abuse and animal abuse. When an animal is removed from a home and if there are children it is important to look further into the situation.

Is there cross reporting between APU and Child Protective Services (CPS)?

If the police feel there is concern it is reported to CPS.

Update – NACC

Barbara not present

Any concerns/issues

1. Two Mauds has offered funding to Animal Rescue of Tidewater (ART). Art will request \$5,000 from the City of Norfolk. ART received funds from Two Mauds and the City of Norfolk in 2012 and were able to spay/neuter 149 animals.

David Freeman asked the group to revisit the original recommendations on a spay and neuter program. There was discussion about a large number (~30,000) of spaying and neutering would need to take place over 7 years to impact the animal populations and NACC intake numbers. If funding for an overall program were requested, it would be difficult to fund \$300K initially and for that many years. So perhaps a much less amount could be requested meaning less animals in the program but in targeted areas where the biggest difference could be made? It would be great if the Board could revisit this issue and provide data and what such a program would look like.

Regarding the request for funding of this year's Two Mauds grant, no departmental funding was requested in this departmental budget submission. Therefore, NACC does not have the money in their budget to fund the request. David did indicate that S&N were very worthwhile. He also mentioned that it is important to understand that requests for funding translates to a certain number of Norfolk animals to receive the procedure but it is very important to know what impact, if any, these procedures are having on controlling the City's animal population and intake numbers at the NACC.

2. Microchipping information was given out by Daphna.
3. World Spay Day – PETA will have reduced cost S & N for 24 hours 2/24 6:00 pm – 2/25 6:00 pm.
4. NSPCA will host a Spay Day event.
5. There are feral cats on the military base. Who has jurisdiction, can the Norfolk Police go on the base to pick up an animal? APU will pick up a contained animal or an injured animal on the base.
6. David acknowledged the NACC staff and volunteers for their wonderful work and dedication during the two snow events. The shelter was opened during both events, even when much of the rest of the City was closed.

5. Assignments		
Action	Assigned To	Notes
Surrender Prevention Hotline/Helpdesk working committee discussion	Jean	Scheduled for 3/17 5:30 at City Hall 10 th floor conference room

6. Next Meeting			
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	RECORDER
4.02.2014	5:30 pm	City Hall, 10 th Floor	Rose Armour
Agenda:			
TBA, available prior to the meeting will be emailed to previous attendants.			